THE BRETHREN'S EVANGELIST
A Religious Weekly,
Holding the BIBLE for its Creed.

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In all cases write the name of each subscriber, post-office, county and State plainly.
Also, post-office, county, State and name of the writer of the letter.
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If anything is written for the editor, or for publication, it must be on a separate sheet of paper from that on which the names of subscribers, or orders for books, are written.
The money should accompany all orders for books or papers.
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We will be pleased at any time to correct any and all errors occurring in this office.
While we shall endeavor to fill all orders promptly and correctly, we must decline to duplicate any books which may be lost on the road to their destination.
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THE EDITOR'S ANNUAL MESSAGE.

"Fate ordains that dearest friends must part."
Young.

"Well, if—we must—we must—
And in that case
The less is said the better." *Sheridan.*

"If we do meet again, why, we shall smile;
If not, why then this parting was well made."
Shakespeare.

The past year has been a wonderful year. Indeed all the years are wonderful, especially the late ones. Each brings with it something new and wonderful. New troubles, new sorrows, new difficulties not before dreamed of; new pleasures new joys, new facilities for accomplishing good, and new temptations to evil. And it is interesting to notice the fruits of these causes, though sad to observe that the temptations to evil seem more fruitful than the opportunities for good. Still as the Lord can bring good out of seeming evil, we trust in His providential overruling, that all things will continue to work together for good to those that love God.

Our paper itself has made quite an adventure in doubling its size and raising the price. And we feel now to speak of it as a success, in several particulars. The first in importance is the satisfaction it has given to our patrons, and the cheerfulness with which they fell in with the innovation. The second is the efficiency and industry exhibited in the contributions to the various departments of our paper. [illegible]rrespondence was full, [illegible]spicy; our [illegible]epartment al-[illegible]ed a number [illegible]aware of a [illegible]lumns which [illegible]sy. We have [illegible] enough to keep [illegible]icism. And the [illegible]eptions, were such as [illegible] conscientious follow-[illegible] were treated in a dignified [illegible]ave we subjected ourselves to censure for rejecting articles of [illegible]ly a few were found to be too in-[illegible]ject matter, and which were withheld [illegible]ense of the friendship of their authors. [illegible]dication of a healthy growth, that we [illegible]ng above those petty bickerings that an-[illegible] us so much in our early experience in the [illegible]paper business for the church. As our char-[illegible]grows broader and our intellect expands we [illegible]ll get still better in this particular. There is [illegible]t room for improvement.

The Youth's Department deserves a paragraph [illegible] our message. It began in infancy, and though [illegible]till in its childhood, it has been growing finely, [illegible]n interest especially. We met quite a number of [illegible]our little contributors during our late journeying [illegible]among the churches, and it afforded us much [illegible]pleasure to find them anxiously perusing their [illegible]columns of the paper and ready to converse upon [illegible]the subjects relating to their greatest good. Par-[illegible]ents, too, expressed much satisfaction in finding [illegible]their children so deeply interested in a good cause. By continued work this department may be made a power for good. It will impart lessons in composition, and aid in the formation of character. The lesson taught and practiced in the grace of liberal giving, will be valuable to those who have exercised in it. This is the main intent of the Dew Drop donations, we conceive, to teach the lesson of giving for the sake of giving. In the absence of the departmental editor, it has suffered somewhat, as no report has been given since Nov. 12. We might set down the assets of the club at about fifteen dollars, which is very good indeed for a dewdrop collection of a few months.

Financially our paper has not been as great a loss as it was feared by some. With the generous donations of our friends the present volume will be as nearly self-sustaining as was the previous one of the old size and price. We regret that it appeared necessary to call upon any one for donations to sustain a business, but as the business is conducted in the interests of a common cause, we do not suffer as much humiliation as if it were for personal gain; besides there were only a few of those who joined sister Hazen's band who did not secure their quoto of subscribers, and so we gave value received, which we love to do as far as possible. Generally our patrons have paid up. A few seem to be somewhat conservatively inclined.

The cause for the success of which the paper is published is also prospering, in some places very rapidly. Progress does not mean the same thing everywhere. At some places simply holding the fort is doing well; the odds being against us. At others, with a strong force, good fortifications and a weak enemy, it would require good work to indicate commensurate progress. "Where much is given, much will be required."

Many new churches have been formed, and old ones have been reconstructed. Others are very near the transition; only just need a little help. And the work of reform is going on in the German Baptist church with astonishing rapidity. It is remarkable that the very thing which our expulsion was intended to avert, should thereby be so much advanced. And yet that this has so occurred to the German Baptist church is obvious to every well-informed member of that denomination. Many of their churches are so near the Brethren in their appearance and practice, that, but for the influence of prejudiced and unprincipled leaders, they would fully assimilate with us. But it should be kept in mind that the work of the *Progressive Christian* was the removal of the prejudices and superfluities of that church. Their resistance to our reformatory measures begat the division, the division begat the reorganization of the Brethren church, and thence came the EVANGELIST. And now they have exhausted their power over us, if they ever had any. And we have retreated within our fortress where all the implements of defense are at hand, and we can give orders which must be obeyed. We are in position to enforce them. We need no longer plead and beg of them to make certain desirable improvements, but we simply set out a model, and say thus it is shown unto us of the Lord, and immediately they say, "Well, we had better do as the Progressives do, or our members will leave us."

But there are yet ten thousand men in the German Baptist church who are no more German Baptist than the three thousand who have been expelled. Until these have been rescued from their bondage there can be no peace between them and us; indeed nothing but an unconditional and complete surrender on their part will be satisfactory. This is only a matter of time. The present generation will yet witness the resignation. The Gospel teaches it: "Every plant which my heavanly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up," and it is confirmed by the history of the ages as it comes thundering down the annals of time, in the experience of all the sects.

We recommend the construction of new fortifications all along the line of attack, and the improvement and strengthening of those already constructed. Also the immediate and vigorous advance of all our forces. There are a number of weak towns and cities which will be easily captured, and which have been under siege so long that many of the inhabitants are suffering from want of the necessary supplies for sustaining religious life. They should be taken soon, liberated from oppression and freely supplied with the pure word of the Lord, and thus put into condition not only to help themselves, but soon also to do valient service for the common cause.

We also recommend conventions of the several states and territories for the purpose of internal improvements, and a general congress of all the workers in the cause, with a view of conferring upon ways and means and methods of applying the resourses of the brotherhood to the greatest good of the greatest number. The time of the latter to be determined by the demand therefor from the people.

And we most earnestly request a liberal patronage of our publication, as one of the most effective means of external and internal improvement, and moral, mental and spiritual advancement, at the disposal of the public.

And lastly, we recommend all to seek a holier life, and a closer relation with our divine Head. Thus will we enhance our own interests and happiness, and contribute to the honor of the Father.

THAT CONVENTION.

Brethren Brown and Bashor are having their say on the convention question this week. Both favor a convention, but are undecided as to the proper time of having it. Brother Brown wants district conventions held in connection with the coming Sunday school conventions as preliminary to a general convention, and brother Bashor wants the convention postponed indefinitely or until there shall arise a difference upon doctrinal points, as upon trine or single immersion—or until the church becomes rich.

We feel bound, at this point, in our capacity as Moderator, to call our brethren to order. The proposed convention is not for the purpose of formulating creeds or giving decisions on doctrinal questions nor to organize a central government which will destroy the congregational idea of church government; neither is it intended for a grand convocation, jubilee or picnic, costing thousands of dollars which would only go into the coffers of the railroad companies, and neither benefit the cause of Christ or the individual members. The proposed convention is not intended to destroy congregational church government any more than a convention of railroad officials to regulate rates of fare and standard time, will destroy the individuality or independent government of the different railroad organizations; or, state organization, even if it is a republic in itself, will destroy the county organizations within that State; or a United States government will destroy the individuality or the independent government of the states. Or, to come nearer home; the two conventions already held by members of the Brethren church have not destroyed our congregational form of church government, neither have the Sunday School conventions held by the Brethren at various places destroyed the local Sunday school organizations, but all must admit that the work in the interests of which these conventions were held was promoted by them.

Another thing to which we wish to call the attention of the disputants. We are a gospel alone church, but not to the extent of demanding a gospel precedent for every expediency necessary for the preaching of the gospel. If this were our position our ministers could not ride on the railroads, but would have to locomote in the same way that the apostles did in filling their missionary engagements. This view we will freely admit would not only prevent the holding of Sunday school conventions and missionary conventions, but general conferences—especially annual conference—as well, and would be a more literal interpretation of the gospel alone doctrine than even the Old Order brethren of the strictest sort would favor. What we understand by gospel alone doctrine is, that no member should be expelled from the body of Christ except by gospel authority. It is perfectly in harmony with the teachings of the Gospel to use such methods to spread that gospel as the exigencies of the times demand and our wisdom sanctified by a sincere desire to serve God will suggest.

In our double capacity of chairman and speaker we will continue while we have the floor, to say to brother Brown that we would be glad to have the district conventions first, but you see the very first trouble we encounter is that we are not districted. That is one of the objects in having a general convention to divide the church into districts. The old division by the German Baptist's is not feasible for the entire church as now constituted, although it might answer in a very few States. A division of States would be better, but not the best, and who is to make the division if there is no convention? If we had one general convention soon and the church districted for mission, Sunday school conventions, and general church work and delegates appointed to represent the church in the national Peace and Temperance conventions, &c., we would not then, perhaps need another general convention for years, but could do our work through the district conventions.

Brother Michael of Lawrence, Kansas, seems to comprehend the question and makes some good points. The floor is for the next speaker.

NOVEMBER FLOWERS.

It is so seldom that we are favored with an original poetical effusion worth criticising, that now that we have something which is almost good, and coming as it does, from a writer of some prominence, and a man of wide reputation for his literary attainments, we feel like sharpening a new pencil and exercising our full privilege. We knew of some previous attempts by the same author, at hymn composing, but who would ever have suspected so much sentiment from so staid an author?

The first four lines are excellent in all the points of execution and expression. The fifth line is somewhat defective, in that it ends with the lesser of the two objects. It would be more elegant to say

They speak of the clover and the rose,

as it would have continued the ascending scale to

"The lily that blooms in the vale."

It is hardly fair to say that the poets treat "November Flowers,"

"Like the snake and the snail."

It would have been more magnanimous, and certainly just as truthful, to have said that they treat them with silent indifference; but then it may be that such an expression could not be put into rhyme. As we are not a poet, we dare not criticise too closely.

The second and third stanzas are a little crowded, but still express quite clearly the thought intended; namely: an apology for the previous poets to recognize November flowers: because they had never been to Altament, or the summit of Mt. Diabolis, or some other point where there is perpetual summer.

The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh verses, compose the ode to November flowers, and is surely well done, a credit to the author and the flowers. And if it were possible to impress a truth in prose which has been so well expressed in rhyme, we would join our weak effort in driving home to the heart of every reader the lesson to take courage from the least and latest tokens of God's good blessings in store for those of his creatures who will love and serve him.

THE MURPHY TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

Francis Murphy, the noted temperance reformer, who inaugurated a temperance revival eight years ago in Pittsburg, Pa., has returned to that City to resume his work.

His meeting last Sunday night was largely attended and over three hundred signed the pledge at this single meeting. Mr. Murphy's work is based upon the idea of moral reform, the spirit of which leads its advocates to reach down even into the slums and lift up the victim of appetite and then hold him up by deeds of Christian charity until he is able to stand himself.

It is a good work as its results in the past have abundantly proved, for while many of course, backslide very many also are thoroughly reformed and transformed from a life of drunkenness and indolence into active, industrious useful men and women, who shine as ornaments in society. Such work as Murphy is doing is certainly commendable and very necessary. It is moreover necessary that the public conscience be educated on the question of temperance reform for without this moral sentiment underlying, all the prohibitory laws that can be enacted, however stringent, will be unavailing. But in view of the fact that the rum power is doing all that it can do by systematic effort to create an appetite for alcoholic stimulants in the young and make more drunkards, it is also necessary to take steps to restrain and prohibit these pest promoters as well as to heal those who are stricken with the plague. The physician who successfully heals the sick is worthy of honor, but the sanitarian who removes the cause of disease by intercepting the infection is the greater benefactor.

The rum power has adopted systematic measures to invade the homes of this nation with the scourge intemperance by enticing the young into the drink habit, and as long as this continues the work of reforming drunkards will only be a superficial work. Some system or plan must be adopted to stop these moral incendiaries who are applying, by organized and systematic efforts, the torch of destruction to our social fabric, or all the efforts we may bring to bear in extinguishing the flames will be unavailing. Legislation for the purpose of restraining and prohibiting the drunkard maker is just as essential as is legislation to prohibit and restrain the incendiary, the thief or the midnight assassin. While we therefore feel to encourage the work of a Murphy as highly necessary, we are not among those who believe that it is the only work needed to accomplish the overthrow of the rum traffic and its concomitant evils.

Editorial Miscellany.

Brother A. L. Davis has an article on our hook headed "Government."

A busy man's leisure time is more fruitful than a lazy man's busy time.

Now is the time to secure subscribers. There is no other time as good as before the volume begins.

"Sifting and Sifting and Sifting" is pretty well shaken up. It is likely about the last that will come through that sieve.

Another earthquake shock was felt in the United States Sunday morning, Nov. 23rd. This time in the Eastern States.

Brother A. L. Garber stopped with us a few days on his return from Ashtabula and Trumble counties, and took in several of our meetings.

Brother J. H. Worst's next cognomen is "Johnny and his Pa." It may not appear this year, but will be a good one to begin the new year with.

It might as well be done first as last, and then you would be sure to get the first numbers. Why not send your subscription right now immediately.

A guide-post is good, but a guide is better. Precept and advice are good, but example is better. "Go" is a good word, but "come" is a great deal better.

The Annual will contain good portraits of brethren Isaac Price and John Cadwallader, and sister Hannah Knauff, with biographical sketches of each. Price 20c.

The first number of 1885 will be dated Jan. 7,